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A noted publisher in Chicago reports there is a simple technique of rapid reading which should enable you to double your reading speed and yet retain much more. Most people do not realize how much they could increase their pleasure, success and income by reading faster and more accurately.

According to this publisher, anyone, regardless of his present reading skill, can use this simple technique to improve his reading ability to a remarkable degree. Whether reading stories, books, technical matter, it becomes possible to read sentences at a glance and entire pages in seconds with this method.

To acquaint the readers of this newspaper with the easy-to-follow rules for developing rapid reading skill, the company has printed full details of its interesting self-training method in a new book, "Adventures in Reading Improvement" mailed free to anyone who requests it. No obligation. Simply send your request to: Reading, 835 Diversey Parkway, Dept. 2647, Chicago, Illinois 60614. A post-card will do.

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BIOTECHNOLOGY

Radiation Danger Reduced

► THE RADIATION DANGER to a patient being examined has been reduced to virtually nothing by a new versatile technique reported by a University of Chicago scientist. Less than a minute is needed to make a picture with the new method.

Dr. Alexander Gottschalk told the American Roentgen Ray Society meeting in Washington, D.C., that the method combines the use of technetium 99, a short-lived radioactive isotope, with a scintillation camera designed by Dr. Hal O. Anger of the University of California. The new scanning technique gives a clear pattern of the thyroid gland, the brain, the liver, spleen, bone marrow, kidney, the blood pool or the lung.

The technetium, which is combined with suitable chemical mixes, provides a strong radiation count equivalent to 140 kilovolts of X-rays, but it does not linger in the body to raise the total radiation dose to the patient.

At the same time, Dr. Gottschalk said, the original strength of radiation from the isotope can be picked up even when concentrated in organs deep in the body.

The scintillation camera is a complex device that records the gamma rays of radiation coming from an isotope in a person's body. The camera contains a pinhole aperture for recording and electronic equipment for analysis. Each radiation energy impulse is transformed into a blip of light on an oscilloscope. By taking a timed film exposure of the oscilloscope, the total radiation pattern is reflected in a scan.

By comparing scan patterns from normal organs with a picture of the patient's organs, a physician can detect disease in the organ he is studying. Some types of disease show an unusually high absorption of a radioactive isotope but others absorb less than normal.

The short time required for the new method of diagnosis has a special advantage for children and other patients who cannot hold still for the half hour or more required by ordinary techniques.

Another technique, rapid serial X-ray film studies, was reported most reliable for diagnosing high blood pressure caused by disease or blockage in the blood vessels of the kidney.

Dr. David M. Witten of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., reported his study of 32 patients diagnosed by a team including four other physicians. They selected 16 patients with high blood pressure from no definite cause to compare with 16 others who had hypertension caused by kidney defects.

• Science News Letter, 88:226 October 9, 1965

GENERAL SCIENCE

Bill Would Bar Doctors From Owning Drug Stores

► THOUSANDS of physicians now making profit from drugs, either as owners of drug stores or drug-packaging companies, would be barred from making money on such products if a bill introduced by Sen. Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.) is passed.

He said the bill would not bar doctors from dispensing drugs and devices for the convenience of their patients, providing they do not profit from it.

More than 10,500 physicians of approximately 200,000 in the United States are selling products they prescribe, the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Committee discovered, reporting that "it would be reasonable to assume that the true figure runs many times higher." Sen. Hart is chairman of this subcommittee.

It is generally agreed, he said, that "40% of the 6,200 practicing ophthalmologists—or approximately 2,500—sell eyeglasses." Add to this number the 3,000 owners of pharmacies who are doctors, the 140 doctor-owned drug-packaging companies and the fact that in Hawaii, for example, 60% to 70% of all drugs are dispensed by doctors or by doctor-owned pharmacies, and the enormity of the problem is evident. In Texas, state records show 74 doctors connected with pharmaceutical companies, but one company alone had 266 doctor stockholders.

Until the summer of 1955, when the American Medical Association's House of Delegates decided that doctors could own drug stores if they did not exploit their patients, the AMA "recognized the dangers inherent in doctor ownership," Sen. Hart pointed out.

The AMA ethics up to that time stated that "an ethical physician does not engage in barter or trade in the appliances, devices or remedies prescribed for patients, but limits the source of his professional income to professional service rendered the patient."

The AMA points out that letters from the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department state there is no violation of antitrust Laws.

• Science News Letter, 88:226 October 9, 1965

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